



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

April 24, 2008

Mr. Paul Diodati, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114-2152

Dear Paul,

On April 16, 2008, we received the Commonwealth's proposal in response to fiscal year 2008 Federal assistance for the alleviation of economic impacts associated with Framework 42 on the Massachusetts groundfish fishery. The National Marine Fisheries Service has completed its initial technical review of the proposed work and has forwarded the proposal to NOAA for required additional clearance and review procedures. Concurrent with this process we are requesting clarification of supporting, yet important, additional information and details concerning the proposal.

- 1) The proposal does not detail the specific process by which the Commonwealth will solicit applications for funds from eligible fishermen. In this regard, no anticipated time line is given by which applications will be accepted, determinations made and funds distributed. Please provide more detail in this regard.
- 2) The application does not provide any detail on the proposed economic relief for crew members. For example, there is no detail on how eligibility of crew will be determined, other than working with Shore Support staff. Please provide information on past performance examples of Shore Support economic relief programs, detailed eligibility criteria and a timeline for the distribution of funds to crew members. Please clarify this proposal element.
- 3) The appeals process is poorly defined. It neglects to identify what information will be required as part of an appeals package, how long the appeals process will last, how an appeal determination is processed, or who makes that decision. In addition, the proposal does not include an appeal process for crew members. Please provide further documentation on the Commonwealth's appeal process.
- 4) The benefits to the fishery and the community of direct payments to fishermen and crew members are not identified in the proposal. Generally, proposal benefits and anticipated outcomes are aligned with project goals. Please provide the Commonwealth's perspective on the direct benefits associated with the proposal as submitted.

We would appreciate a response to these comments by May 16, 2008.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Mears, Director  
State, Federal & Constituent  
Programs Office

cc: D. McKiernan, K. Crieghton  
cc: S. Cunningham  
cc: P. Kurkul – NERO

